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claims pto

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1. (Currently Amended) An ascension/descension apparatus, comprising:
 - a track connected to a vertical surface of a utility pole;
 - a portable platform portion detachably connectable to the track such that the portable platform portion can move upwardly and downwardly along the track; and
 - a chain system connected to the track for raising and lowering the portable platform portion wherein the track includes two vertical rails parallel to each other and connected to each other by a plurality of inter-rail supports, the supports being connected to the pole for securing the track to the pole.
2. The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a chain system connected to the track for raising and lowering the portable platform portion.
3. (Previously Presented) The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 1, wherein the chain system includes at least one chain, and further comprising a motor for rotating the chain.
4. (Original) The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a control unit connected to the portable platform portion such that an operator of the apparatus can control the motor from the control unit.

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5. (Original) The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a motor control unit in communication with the control unit and the motor, wherein the motor control unit is for receiving signals from the control unit.
6. (Original) The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 5, wherein the control unit is in wireless communication with the motor control unit.
8. (Original) The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vertical surface includes a surface of a utility pole.
9. (Currently Amended) The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 1 ~~wherein the utility pole includes utility equipment is connected to the pole utility pole.~~ wherein the utility pole includes utility equipment is connected to the pole utility pole.
10. (Original) The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 9, wherein the utility pole is a telephone pole.
11. (Currently Amended) An ascension/descension apparatus, comprising:
a portable platform portion; and
means for raising and lowering the portable platform, the means including:
a track attached to a vertical surface of a utility pole, wherein the portable platform portion is detachably connectable to the track;
a chain system for moving the portable platform portion along the track; and

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a motor in communication with the chain system wherein the track includes two vertical rails parallel to each other and connected to each other by a plurality of inter-rail supports, the supports being connected to the pole for securing the track to the pole.

12. The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for raising and lowering includes:

a track, wherein the portable platform portion is detachably connectable to the track;
a chain system for moving the portable platform portion along the track; and
a motor in communication with the chain system.

13. (Previously Presented) The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a control unit connected to the portable platform portion such that an operator of the apparatus can control the motor from the control unit.

14. (Original) The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a motor control unit in communication with the control unit and the motor, wherein the motor control unit is for receiving signals from the control unit.

15. (Original) The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 14, wherein the control unit is in wireless communication with the motor control unit.

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16. The ascension/descension apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for raising and lowering includes a hydraulic lift system.

17. A method of traversing a vertical surface, comprising:
connecting a portable platform portion to a track, wherein the track includes a chain system; and
activating the chain system to raise the portable platform portion such that the portable platform portion ascends the vertical surface.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
activating the chain system to lower the portable platform portion such that the portable platform portion descends the vertical surface; and
disconnecting the portable platform portion from the track.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein activating the chain system includes transmitting a wireless signal to a motor control system, wherein the motor control system is in communication with a motor that drives at least one chain of the chain system.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising connecting the chain system to a utility pole.